Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar (*Director of Agriculture*): (*a*) Yes, 14 times.

(*b*) No requisition of the kind has been received.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: Will the honourable member be pleased to say what has been the result of those visits?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: He has advised them of the steps they are to carry on in regard to improved methods of cultivation.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: Has any one taken his advice and acted on it?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: I cannot say off-hand.

Agricultural conditions of the people of Shertala.

60. * **Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla**: Will the Government be pleased to state whether any attempt has been made by the Agricultural Department to improve the agricultural condition of the people of Shertala in the course of the last two years?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: Yes.

Soft wood in the Government forests.

61. * **Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar** (*Parur, Kunnatnad and Mavattupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the extent of soft wood growing in the Government forests;

(*b*) whether they are exported for making tea chests;

(*c*) if so the quantity annually exported; and

(*d*) whether the research section of the University has made attempts for the manufacture of glue for making chests?

Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkiteswara Aiyar (*Conservator of Forests*): (*a*) Complete figures are not available.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) This does not arise in view of the answer to part (*b*).

(*d*) No.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: May I know the quantity extracted, in regard to the answer to part (*a*) of the question?

Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkiteswara Aiyar: We have been extracting, Sir, about twenty to twenty-two thousand candies every year for the last ten years.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: With reference to the answer to part (*b*) may I know whether it is exported for any other purpose?

Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkiteswara Aiyar: The export is mainly for packing cases.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai (*Kalkulam and Vilavankod* cum *Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether there is any demand for tea chests from places outside the State?

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Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkiteswara Aiyar: Yes, Sir, there is a demand.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: With reference to part (*d*) may I know why no research was made by the University?

Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkiteswara Aiyar: Sir, an expert has been engaged for making tea chests in Travancore.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: How long is it since he has been appointed?

Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkiteswara Aiyar: He was appointed about a month ago, Sir.

Rule in the case of a thrice failed E. S. L. C. student to appear for that examination.

62. ***Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there is any rule prohibiting a student who failed thrice in the School Leaving Certificate Examination from appearing again; and

(*b*) whether such students were permitted to appear for the examination in 1116 and 1117?

Mr. A. Gopala Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*):

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) 1116—No.

1117—Can be known only at the time of the examination.

Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail: May I know, Sir, whether any exemptions were given?

Mr. A. Gopala Menon: Just a few exemptions have been given.

Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail: May I know whether any applications for exemption have been rejected.

Mr. A. Gopala Menon: Quite a number of them have been rejected.

Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail: May I know whether any rule has been formulated giving the conditions justifying exemption?

Mr. A Gopala Menon: Government must be satisfied that there is sufficient ground for exemption.

Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail: May I know whether it is the discretion of Government that is used in granting exemptions?

Mr. A. Gopala Menon: At present it is.

Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail: May I know whether in the case of those exempted the discretion of Government has been used in favour of the forward communities and against backward communities?

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